CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

Sub #1

1. A protective assembly for a computer system, comprising:

a chassis;

an access panel;

a latch member secured to the access panel; and

a catch member moveably secured to the chassis, the catch member being biased to a first position on the chassis to secure the latch member.

2. The system as recited in claim 1, wherein the latch member includes a first engaging portion and a first securing portion and the catch member includes a second engaging portion and a second securing portion.

3. The system as recited in claim 2, wherein the catch member comprises an inner portion and an outer portion coupled together through a hole in a wall portion of the chassis.

4. The system as recited in claim 2, wherein the first engaging portion slidingly engages the second engaging portion and displaces the catch member from the first position as the access panel is moved to a closed position on the chassis.

5. The system as recited in claim 4, wherein at the closed position, the first engaging portion and the second engaging portion are no longer in sliding engagement and the catch member is biased back to the first position.

6. The system as recited in claim 5, wherein the second securing portion is disposed over the first securing portion when the catch member is in the first position.

7. The system as recited in claim 6, wherein the first securing portion and the second securing portion are flat.

8. The system as recited in claim 6, wherein the first engaging portion and the second engaging portion are angled.

9. The system as recited in claim 7, wherein the latch member is released from the catch member by displacing the catch member so that the second securing portion is not disposed over the first securing portion.

10. The system as recited in claim 1, wherein the catch member is biased by a spring.

11. The system as recited in claim 2, wherein the catch member includes a third engaging portion and a third securing portion symmetrical about an axis with the second engaging portion and the second securing portion.

12. The system as recited in claim 2, wherein the first engaging portion and the second engaging portion are configured for sliding engagement.

13. The system as recited in claim 2, wherein the first securing portion and the second securing portion are configured for abutment.

14. The system as recited in claim 2, wherein the access panel is pivoted about a first end to dispose the access panel on the chassis.

15. The system as recited in claim 1, comprising a spring to bias the access panel to an open position.

16. A securing member for a movable securing system, the movable securing system securing an access panel to a chassis, the access panel having a latch extending therefrom, the securing member comprising:

a first surface configured for sliding engagement with the latch as the access panel is pivoted towards a closed position on the chassis; and

a second surface configured to restrict movement of the latch when the access panel is disposed in the closed position on the chassis.

17. The first member as recited in claim 16, wherein the first surface is angled.

18. The first member as recited in claim 17, wherein the second surface is generally flat.

19. The first member as recited in claim 18, the first member further comprising a third surface and a fourth surface, the third surface and fourth surface being oriented symmetrically about an axis with the first surface and second surface.

20. A method of securing an access panel having a latch member to a chassis having a moveable catch member biased to a first position on the chassis, comprising:

pivoting a first end of the access panel towards a closed position on the chassis;

displacing the moveable catch member from the first position with the latch member; and

disposing the access panel in the closed position on the chassis, wherein the moveable catch member is no longer displaced by the latch member and is biased back to the first position, thereby securing the latch member.

21. The method as recited in claim 20, further comprising:

providing a biasing element to bias the access panel towards an open position on the chassis.

22. The method as recited in claim 21, wherein providing includes displacing the access panel by the biasing element to an open position on the chassis when the moveable catch member is moved to a second position on the chassis, thereby releasing the latch member.

23. The method as recited in claim 20, further comprising:

configuring the latch member and moveable catch member for sliding engagement as the access panel is pivoted towards the closed position.

24. The method as recited in claim 23, further comprising:

configuring the latch member and moveable catch member for abutment when the moveable catch member is biased back to the first position.